

**FAITHFULNESS TO ENTER
INTO YOUR REST**

Joshua 22

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

First of 12 historical books

Joshua means “Jehovah Saves” or the “Lord is Salvation”

The book of Joshua is the book of a new beginning for the people of God (i.e. the Israelites)

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel claimed their promised inheritance (their **REST**)

- “Like the days of the heavens above the earth” Deut. 11:21

The book of Joshua speaks about the defeat of the land and its division among the tribes of Israel

GOVERNING FACTS OF JOSHUA

22

1. 2 ½ tribes desired to settle East Jordan
2. Joshua's exhortation to His people in a series of fare well addresses
3. Problem arises, great conflict, and the alter is built

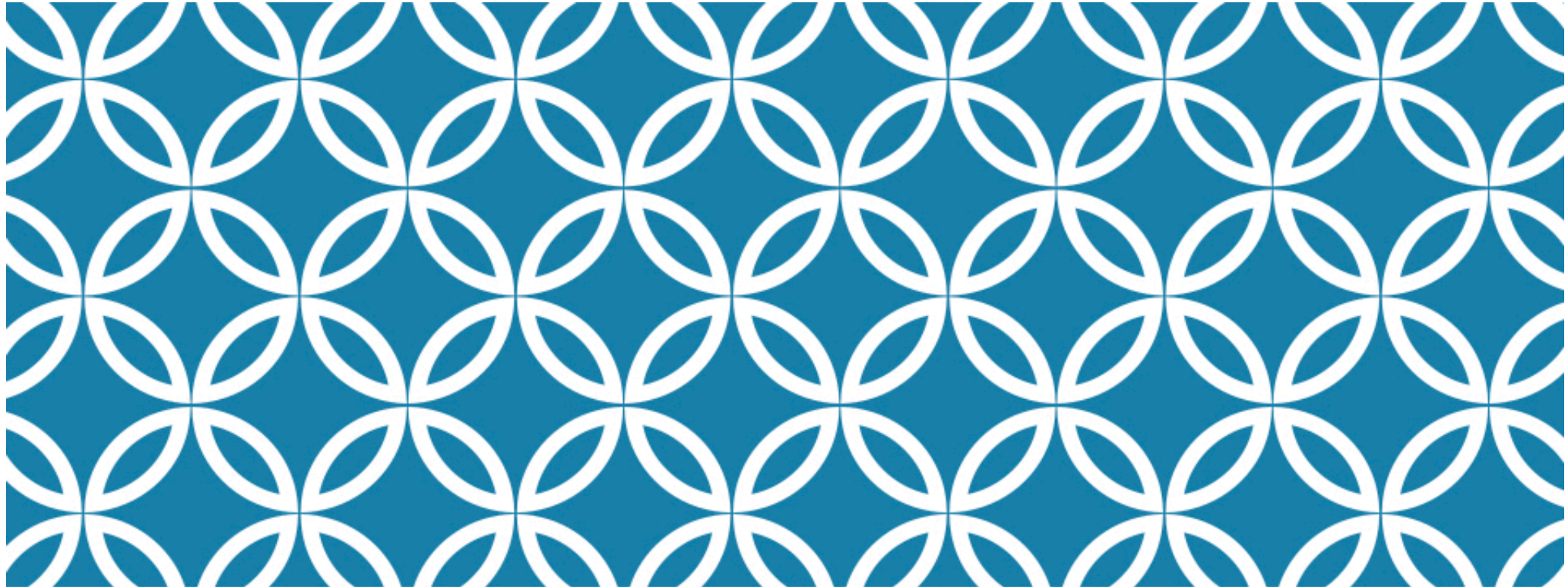
WHAT IS REST?

To cease work or movement in order to relax, refresh oneself or recover strength.

Can be described as “Sabbath Rest”

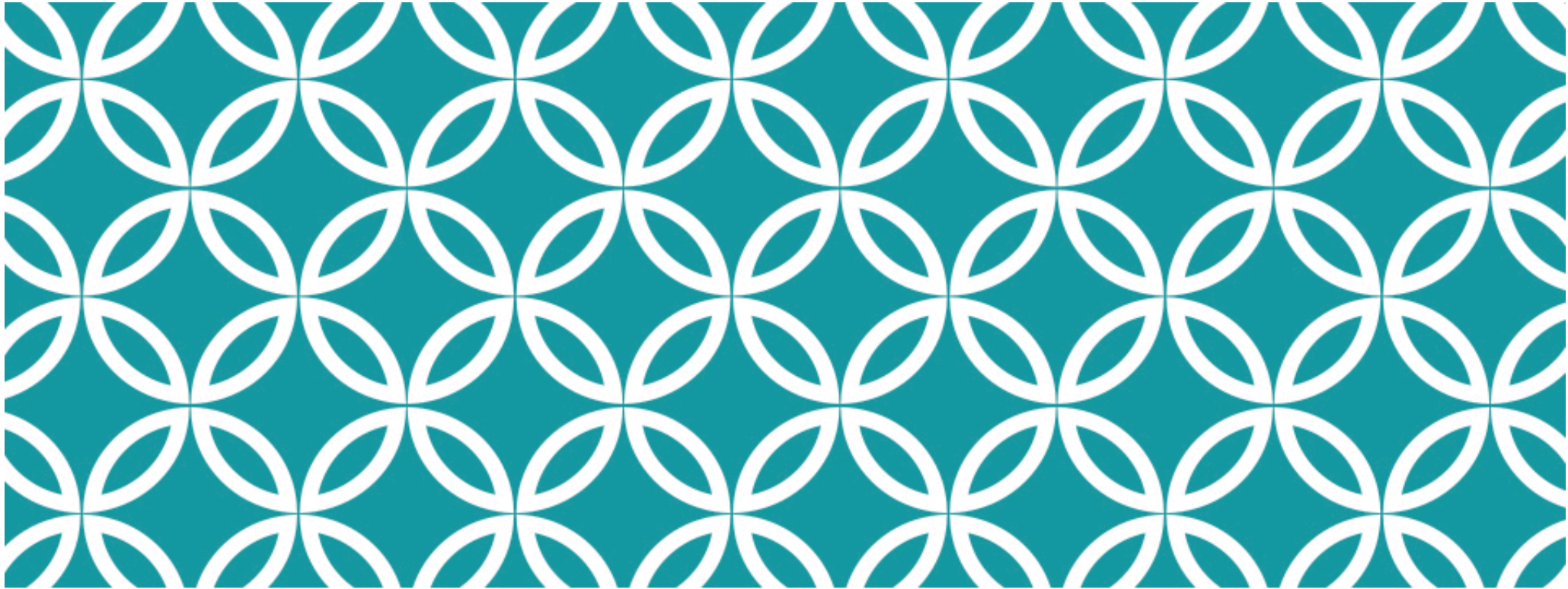
When the people of God complete their service to Him on earth, they will enter into God’s prepared rest.

The REST is before us as our heritage and by faith we live in light of it in THIS world



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**2 ½ OF THE TRIBES DESIRE
TO SETTLE EAST OF JORDAN**

Numbers 32:1-23

NUMBERS 32: 1-5

¹ Now the children of Reuben and the children of Gad had a very great multitude of livestock; and when they saw the land of Jazer and the land of Gilead, that indeed the region was a place for livestock, ² the children of Gad and the children of Reuben came and spoke to Moses, to Eleazar the priest, and to the leaders of the congregation, saying, ³ “Ataroth, Dibon, Jazer, Nimrah, Heshbon, Elealeh, Shebam, Nebo, and Beon, ⁴ the country which the LORD defeated before the congregation of Israel, *is* a land for livestock, and your servants have livestock.” ⁵ Therefore they said, “If we have found favor in your sight, let this land be given to your servants as a possession. Do not take us over the Jordan.”

SETTLEMENT BY THE 2 1/2

Tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh wanted to settle in a land outside of Jordan

- They were willing to compromise and settle for less than what God had promised them in the land of Canaan
- They sought out the guidance of Moses first, not that of God

ALWAYS consult God **FIRST** and **WAIT** for **HIS** response before making a decision

FULFILLMENT OF A PLEDGE

It took nearly 7 years from 1406 BC to 1399BC for the tribe of Reuben, Gad and half-tribe of Manasseh to fulfill their pledge to Moses, God and to Israel

- They pledged their support of the rest of the tribes in the subduing of the promised land

Joshua recognized their years of servitude and loyalty

Question: Who do you seek to glorify?



JOSHUA THE EXAMPLE OF A GREAT LEADER

Joshua 22:1-9

JOSHUA 22:1-3

¹Then Joshua called the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh, ² and said to them: “You have kept all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, and have obeyed my voice in all that I commanded you. ³ You have not [a]left your brethren these many days, up to this day, but have kept the charge of the commandment of the LORD your God.

JOSHUA'S SEND-OFF

Joshua was *generous* in the treatment of his troops after victory

- How do we treat or send away those that have faithfully served us or along side us?

Joshua made his soldiers *great* and led by example

Joshua *recognized* their servitude

Joshua *reminded* them to remain obedient to God

Joshua *fulfilled* the will and promise of God by ushering them into their rest

(References: Ex. 33:14; Deut. 12:9-10; Josh. 1:13,15; Josh. 11:23, 14:15, 21:44, 23:1)

ENTERING INTO THE PROMISED REST

Spiritual application of rest can be found in Hebrews 3 and 4

How do we enter into God's rest?

- By trusting Christ as Savior (Rom. 5:1)
- By surrendering completely to Him
- By claiming our inheritance by faith
- By taking on His yoke of discipleship

We are able to enter a deeper rest and enjoy our spiritual riches in Christ (Matt. 11:28-32)

JOSHUA 22:6-9

⁶ So Joshua blessed them and sent them away, and they went to their tents.

⁷ Now to half the tribe of Manasseh Moses had given a possession in Bashan, but to the *other* half of it Joshua gave a *possession* among their brethren on this side of the Jordan, westward. And indeed, when Joshua sent them away to their tents, he blessed them,

JOSHUA 22:6-9

⁸ and spoke to them, saying, “Return with much riches to your tents, with very much livestock, with silver, with gold, with bronze, with iron, and with very much clothing. Divide the [c]spoil of your enemies with your brethren.”

⁹ So the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh returned, and departed from the children of Israel at Shiloh, which *is* in the land of Canaan, to go to the country of Gilead, to the land of their possession, which they had obtained according to the word of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

JOSHUA THE EXAMPLE OF A GREAT LEADER

Joshua loved and was obedient to God and to His word (Josh. 1:7-8)

- The first and greatest commandment (Matt. 22:36-38)
- “If you love me keep my commandments” (John 14:15)

Joshua blessed their servitude and sent them off with great riches



THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING GOD-LED

Joshua 22:10-34

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD-LED DECISION MAKING

The 2 1/2 began to feel isolated from the nation of Israel

- Why?

No record that Moses consulted God about the decision to grant the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh the lands in the East of Jordan

- Moses was MOST concerned that these tribes do their fare of the fighting and conquering
- Moses' first response was anger and fear, lest God judge the nation as he had at Kadesh Barnea

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOD-LED DECISION MAKING

Canaan was the land that God appointed for the people of Israel

- Anything **less** wasn't what God wanted for them

The 2 ½ made their decision on the basis of material gain and not of spiritual values

- They divided the nation and separated themselves from the blessings of the land of Canaan

JOSHUA 22:10-12

¹⁰ And when they came to the region of the Jordan which *is* in the land of Canaan, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh built an altar there by the Jordan—a great, impressive altar. ¹¹ Now the children of Israel heard *someone* say, “Behold, the children of Reuben, the children of Gad, and half the tribe of Manasseh have built an altar on the frontier of the land of Canaan, in the region of the Jordan—on the children of Israel’s side.” ¹² And when the children of Israel heard *of it*, the whole congregation of the children of Israel gathered together at Shiloh to go to war against them.

PROBLEMS ARISE, GREAT CONFLICT AND AN ALTER IS BUILT

The 2 1/2 build a large alter of stones by the Jordan river on the side of Canaan as a reminder that they belonged to the Nation of Israel

- If they had settled in Canaan, there would be no question of their nationality

Some believers mimic that behavior of artificially letting people know that they are a believer when people cannot see Christ in them

PROBLEMS ARISE, GREAT CONFLICT AND AN ALTER IS BUILT

If the 2 ½ faithfully attended the feasts in Jerusalem (Ex. 23:17)

If the 2 ½ honored the Lord by obeying His word and talked about His word in their homes (Deut. 6:6-9)

If the 2 ½ raised their children to know and serve the Lord

THERE WOULD BE NO REASON FOR THE ALTER

The alter is no guarantee of their desired outcome

PROPER HANDLING OF CONFLICT

How are we supposed to handle conflict or offenses between brethren?

- Perceived offences need to be confronted

The whole congregation of Israel prepared to go to war against their brethren

- Wisely, they took the approach to *investigate* and *delegate mediators* before taking brash steps
- Note: there was no yelling, screaming or demeaning involved

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MISUNDERSTANDING

The 2 ½ built the alter out of concern

- Facts: the 12 stones represented that the men had been carried from the midst of the Jordan River (Josh. 4:20-24)
 - It was meant to remind the Jews that they had crossed the river and buried their past forever

The fact that God knows our hearts, and that we've taken an oath, is no guarantee that our actions are right

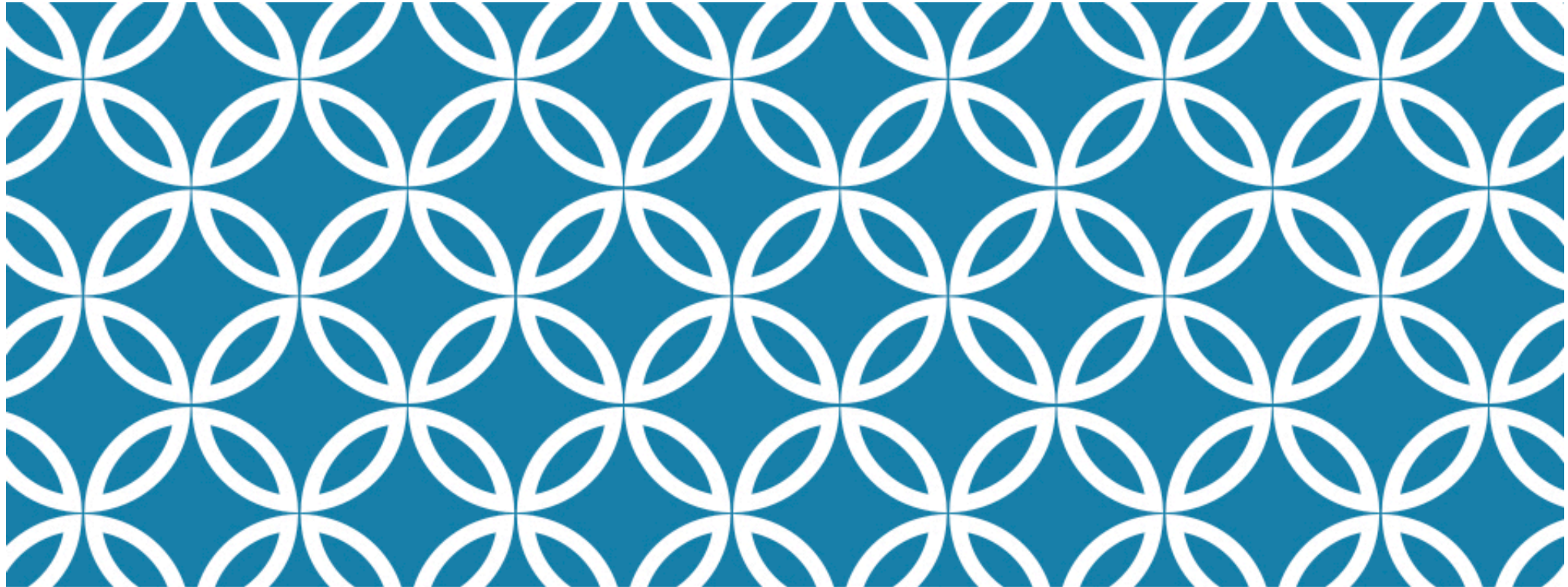
- We don't even know our own hearts (Jer. 17:19)

THE RESOLUTION

The investigation was concluded and the Israel was pleased with the resolution

The 2 ½ named their alter “Witness” for it is a witness between them that Lord is God

The question still remains: If the Lord is God, why didn't they obey Him and live in the land he had appointed for them?



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